



Volume 28 No.2

THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



May 2022 Issue

The Little Old Red Schoolhouse

BY CLAYTON CUTTING, TRANSCRIBED BY GAIL LYNDE

Have you ever driven by the little red schoolhouse on Carpenter Road and wondered about its history? This lovely brick building was built in 1805 and used as one of 14 one-room schoolhouses scattered throughout Guilford. (If this sounds hard to believe, please note that when the first US Census was taken in 1790, Guilford was the most populated town in Vermont—with more residents than we have today!) Gail Lynde got her hands on an essay written by Clayton Cutting, published in The Reformer in 1939 when he was just 14 years old. Cutting's essay won second prize in a contest sponsored by the Historical Society of Windham County. Here is an only slightly condensed version.

In Guilford Center is a little old dilapidated, forsaken red brick schoolhouse that aroused my curiosity. I resolved to find out what I could about the school and the children who attended it in the days of long ago.

School District No. 2 was divided in 1798 from east to west, and the south side became District No. 14. From Arad Hunt of Hinsdale, N. H., a small piece of land was secured near the brook in Guilford Center, on which was built, about 1805, the present little red schoolhouse. The bricks probably came from the David Stowell farm, for there we can still see the remains of the old kiln. This farm is now Dr. Charles Sweet's summer residence.

Some of the children who attended this school about that time were the Bigelow children, who lived where Earl Clark does now. Farther up on the hill, the Lynde children lived where Ralph Boyd now resides. The Martin children lived in the Falby house, built by their father, Willard Martin. The Steven children lived opposite Earl Jacques's place, and the Chase children lived in the famous old Houghton Tavern. The Chase and Steven children went across the meadows to the little red school, for there was no direct road from their home to Guilford Center until later.

In those days, Guilford was self-sustaining except for rock salt, a little West India rum, and molasses. Flax seed was exchanged for these products. Farm laborers received 30 cents per day

during the summer season, but their best leather shoes cost only 90 cents.

I saw a picture of the little red schoolhouse taken about 80 years later. It was summertime, and the teacher, Miss Lula Adams, the present Mrs. Frank Wellman,



The Little Red Schoolhouse.

was outside the building with her five pupils. The pupils were Gertrude Richmond, Minnie and Walter Thayer, and two Ingraham boys. The teacher and girl pupils wore white aprons, and Walter Thayer was a tiny barefoot boy.

Mrs. Wellman told me that she commenced teaching when she was 17 years old, and she taught her first term in the little red schoolhouse. She attended Select school (corresponding to our high school) at Guilford Center, in the old town hall between terms. At that time, two 12-week terms made up one school year. School began at 9 o'clock in the morning and closed at 4 in the afternoon.

Mrs. Wellman's salary was two or two and one-half dollars per week. In those days a teacher boarded around, and the

amount of time spent with one family depended upon the amount of property a person owned. Mrs. Wellman told me she was royally entertained by the families where she boarded, and she really felt she understood her pupils much better by having direct contact with their parents and home environment.

Children attended school when they were only three years of age. One of Mrs. Wellman's pupils, William Barron, had a nap every morning lying in one of the double seats. This little boy lived near the site of the present Guilford library.

I chanced to remark that I didn't believe the teacher was bothered by her pupils' watching the traffic on the road past the little red schoolhouse, for it is about five and half feet from

the floor to the window sill. Mrs. Thayer replied, "Oh yes, we did, we just stood up and looked out."

When Mrs. Wellman taught there, the floor where the seats were slanted upward from the main floor, somewhat like a theater. The teacher and children loved to eat their lunch over by the Guilford spring, for it was very shady and cool there, even on the hottest days.

Two pupils whose behavior was extra good were chosen, as a great favor, to go to the cold spring after water. The water was brought to the schoolhouse in a pail, and all children drank from the same cup or dipper.

One day, Mrs. John Thayer came rushing over to the little red school, asking

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The Guilford Gazette

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The *Guilford Gazette* was established in 1995 and was published by students at Guilford Central School, with support from the Town of Guilford, and is now published under the auspices of the Guilford Free Library. We publish four issues per year: February, May, August and November. Deadlines are January 1 for February, April 1 for May, July 1 for August, and October 1 for November.

The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to print photos and articles submitted by the public. Please be aware that *the Gazette staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants*. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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The Guilford Gazette is an all-volunteer newspaper that comes out four times a year. That's a big commitment for the seven regulars on the staff, who take care of editing, production, advertising, printing and mailing it to every Guilford household. Here's how you can help:

- **Prepare the printed newspaper for mailing** by helping us with labels. If enough people show up, this only takes a few hours and it's a chance to socialize and get a sneak preview of the paper! Contact Cathi Wilken at the library [802 257-4603] to find out how you can help.

- **Send in articles.** This is a chance to let us know what your group, organization or business is doing in Guilford! Or perhaps you'd like to share a reminiscence, poem, or story with your fellow Guilfordites. Just limit your entry to no more than 600 words. You can submit articles (editable word processing document such as Word or Google docs) to the Gazette by email to gazettevt@gmail.com, or you can send a printed copy to Susan Bonthron (108 S. Belden Hill Rd., Guilford, VT 05301), or Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library (4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301). Publication of articles is at the discretion of the editors. Please DO pay attention to deadlines: January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

- **Join our staff.** If you have an interest in becoming a staff member who can help with editing, advertising or production, we'd love you to join us at our "second Thursday of the month" meetings at 9AM on Zoom or at the Guilford Country Store. Meetings start on time and last no more than one hour.

- **Donate.** The Gazette always welcomes donations of any size. They help pay for postage and printing. Checks made out to The Guilford Gazette should be sent to Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, 05301.

Thanks in advance for your help in keeping our town newspaper alive and thriving!



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Library Revote on May 24th

BY SUSAN BONTHRON

More than sufficient signatures were gathered for a petition requesting a revote on Article 7 (concerning construction improvements to the Guilford Free Library—see box). The revote will happen on May 24th, exactly the way the original vote happened (by statute), which means that you can vote at the Town Office between 10AM and 7PM on May 24th, or send in an absentee ballot before that date. Absentee ballots have been distributed (again, by statute) to all those who requested one for the Town Meeting on March 1st of this year.

If you did not request a ballot for that meeting, you can still ask for one by contacting the Town Clerk at (802) 254-6857, ext. 101.

An informational meeting will be held at least 10 days before the revote (by statute). At publication time this date was not yet determined, though it should be available on the town office website (guilfordvt.gov), on Front Porch Forum, or by contacting the town office at 802-254-6857.

TOWN OF GUILFORD PUBLIC NOTICE RECONSIDERATION VOTE MAY 24, 2022

The legal voters of the Town of Guilford, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to vote at the Guilford Town office Town of Guilford on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, between the hours of ten o'clock (10:00) in the forenoon (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to transact the following business by **AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**:

ARTICLE 7:

Shall the voters of the Town of Guilford authorize the construction of improvements to the Guilford Free Library, to include modifications to the existing structure and connecting the rear addition to the main Library building to preserve most of the façade and exterior features of the existing building in an approximate amount of \$1,013,300.00, with an amount not to exceed \$205,000 to be financed over a period not to exceed thirty (30) years, subject to available grants-in-aid, and shall the Town reallocate to this project an additional \$195,000 in funds held with the Vermont Bond Bank originally allocated to a water project which was funded through other means?

The legal voters of the Town of Guilford are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Schoolhouse, continued from page 1

for help. Her house was on fire, and the men folks were busy in the fields. Snatching up the broom and water pail, Mrs. Wellman, with the little ones trailing behind, rushed to the Thayer home. I am glad to say the fire was soon extinguished.

Nearly 115 years after the school was erected, in imagination, we step again inside the little school room. The floor

is level now but few other changes have been made. Mrs. Anna Biddle is the teacher, and her pupils are Ruth and Arvine Boyd, Harold Clark, Merrill Thayer, and Virgie Goodnow, who was the last pupil to graduate from the little school in June 1920. Ruby Thayer, granddaughter of Mrs. John Thayer, graduated the year before.

In the autumn of 1920, when other

schools were again opened, the little red brick school remained closed. And so it is, to this day, sitting in the sun by the side of the road, desolate, abandoned, lonely, and deserted. Do you think it longs to be filled again with happy boys and girls studying, laughing, singing, and dashing out to play?

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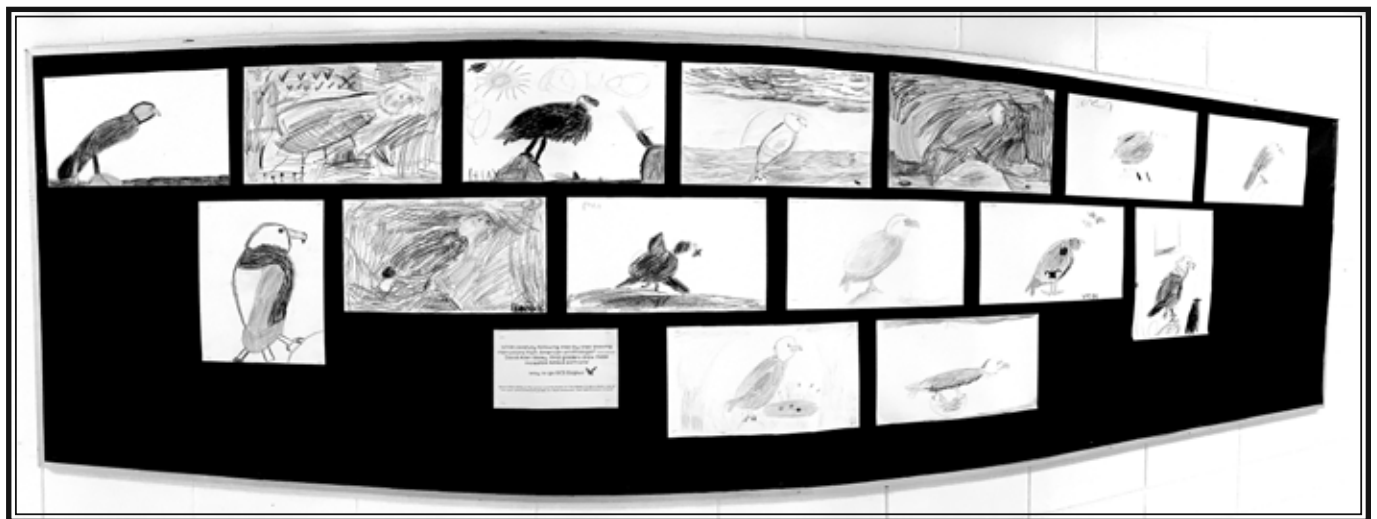
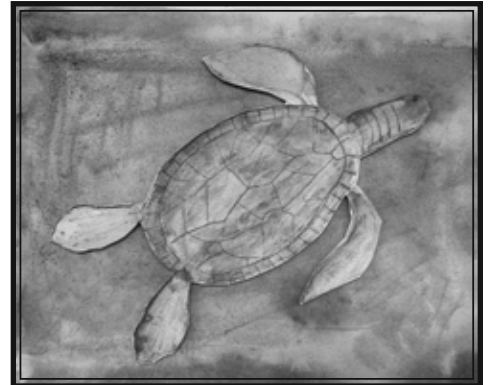
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The Spirit of Creativity at Guilford Central School

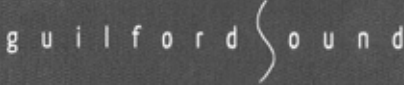
A selection of this year's student work, curated by Guilford Center School's art teacher, Tessa Carpenter, will appear throughout this issue.



3rd grade's Wall of Eagles



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Guilford to Have a Downtown Park

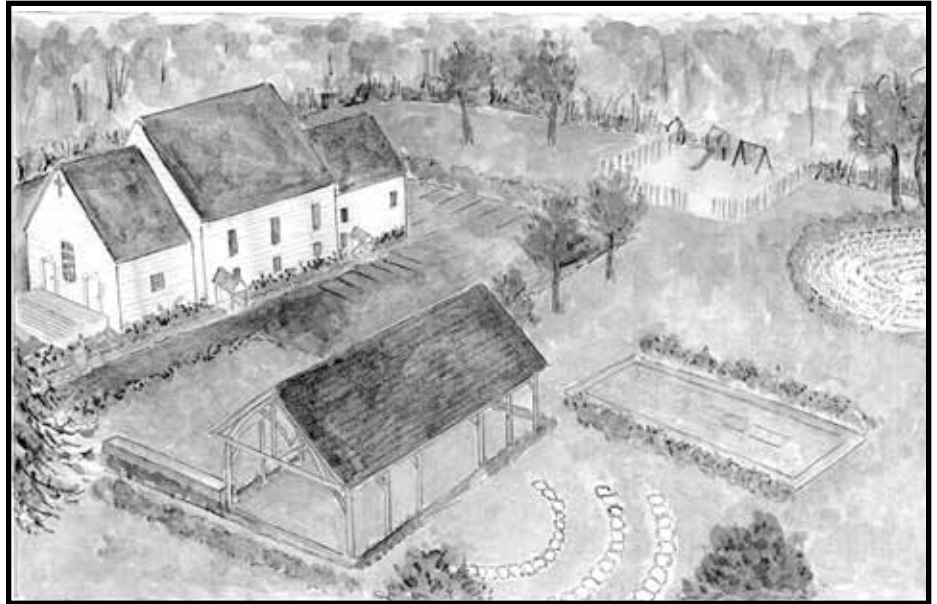
BY NANCY DETRA

“Community” is in the church’s name. In addition to church services, the Guilford Community Church has long been a venue and a meeting place for weddings and funerals, exercise classes, alcohol and drug anonymous groups, and concerts, and it’s provided an emergency shelter in times of need. Now its members are working to build a “downtown” park that is for everyone.

“We see the project as a way to get people together more, in a natural setting,” said Dunham Rowley, one of the church’s members who is working hard to make the park a reality. In 2016, the Community Church bought the property next door to its building, with hopes at that time of creating a much-needed early childhood center. But the footprint of the property was just too small to accommodate that project. After an 18-month delay due to COVID, the church’s park committee and several of the town’s organizations are now collaborating to get this new project on its feet: groups such as Guilford Preservation Inc., Friends of Algiers Village, Neighborhood Roots, and the Recreation Commission.

The park is meant to appeal to children, families, lunch eaters (The Guilford Country Store will be connected by a pathway), and travelers. It will be a place for outdoor weddings and other special events: concerts, lectures, and theatrical performances. A post-and-beam pavilion will be built out of local timbers and will provide shelter from sun and rain.

Committee members hope that, as a meeting place, the park will contribute to Guilford’s vitality and well-being, including its environmental well-being, and its history. Dunham said this area of Guilford is thought to have been an



Terry Sylvester painted this image of the proposed Guilford park.

important home base and “port” to the Broad Brook and the Connecticut River for Native Americans. He refers to the Abenaki belief that all things in nature are alive. “So when you’re out in nature you’re never alone.” Dunham notes that the park organizers hope to honor the former Native American presence in the area by hosting talks and ceremonies led by ancestors of those that once lived on this land.

There will be much to enjoy in the one-acre park. In addition to the 24’ by 48’ pavilion, there will be a labyrinth, an amphitheater, a play area, a basketball court, and grassy open spaces for picnicking.

The committee will contract for services almost wholly within the town. The pavilion will be built by local contractor Chad Mathrani (Vermont Natural Homes); and other services, including excavation, building, and wiring the pavilion, as well

as relocating the emergency generator, will all be locally sourced. The project will require considerable funding in the neighborhood of \$182,000. Planners estimate that 12% of the project costs will be covered by volunteer labor, and the committee is seeking contributions both in the form of grants and of individual donations.

“It will be a vital and living place for all who want to come to it,” says Dunham, “We know we have a lot more to do.”

Donations may be made by check to “Guilford Community Church” with “Guilford Community Park” in the memo line. Send to: Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Drive, Guilford VT 05301. Or visit the “Guilford Community Park” GoFundMe page.

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Let's Gather, Guilford!

BY ANNA KLEIN

Stress. Disconnection. Frustration. Have you been feeling it? I know that most of us have. The absence of Town Meeting for the past two years, in addition to general covid-related awfulness, has, I think, contributed to discord in our town. But, at the same time, we need each other more than ever right now.

In April, I began to share an idea for an intensive community process, called "Guilford Gathering," to help bring us together again as neighbors, friends, and as a town. Folks from all backgrounds and from both sides of every contentious town issue have expressed enthusiasm for it. We all need this. That's because we all share a love for this place. Guilford is our home.

The first step in this process will be to hold neighborhood social gatherings all over town, hopefully to happen in late spring or early summer. These gatherings will focus on getting to know new neighbors, reconnecting with old friends, and seeing each other face-to-face. It's been a while. We have a lot of catching up to do!

After that, we'll plan some events to share our dreams and visions about the future of our town. What do we love about Guilford? What do we want here that isn't happening already? This step is all about positive thinking, finding our common ground and building on it.

Then, we can start to address some of the hardest, deepest issues in town and look for solutions together — and I'll need everyone's help to make this happen. Our town government can only do so much. It's us, the people of Guilford, that have the power and knowledge to find shared solutions. Our ideas might differ, but we all share a love for this town and we want it to be the best it can be for all of us.

Please join me, and spread the word!

Local Business Wins Prestigious Award

BY TARA CHENEY

The Vermont District office of the Small Business Administration recently awarded Vermont Roadworks (VTR) the title "Woman-Owned Business of the Year." VTR is run and owned by myself and my husband Fred Cheney, both of Guilford. We are also a family-owned business with offices in Guilford and Brattleboro. We have employed three of our children as well as our three surviving parents. My father Phillip Cutting and my mother, Denise LaRock, both worked for us during Covid and in 2021, in the office and driving trucks. My father-in-law, Stuart Cheney worked for us until he was 85 years old.

Vermont Roadworks was established in 2014. We have learned to diversify to compete with big businesses and corporations and to be able to provide year round work and keep full time employees without having to lay them off. We provide asphalt paving and maintenance to our local community and to businesses throughout New England as well as Vermont state contracting. We also do crack sealing, sealcoating, line striping,

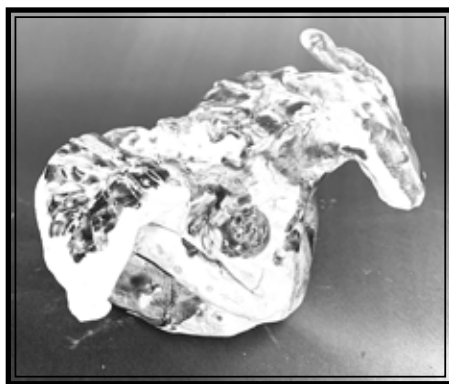
infrared pothole repair, street sweeping, excavation, construction, landscaping and winter snow maintenance and removal.

VTR is proud to be pioneering the green revolution in Vermont by using recycled asphalt and infrared to fix potholes for a long-term solution. We also use recycled vegetable oil to clean all of our equipment and tools instead of harsh solvents and chemicals. Vermont Roadworks fosters growth and rewards hard work by offering leadership and promotion within our company. We provide stable jobs with a livable wage to local people so they can support their families.

As "the industry of second chances" we hire students, veterans, elderly and people who have had some hard luck or made some bad choices but want to better themselves. We offer internships and apprenticeships. We are also interested in hiring and teaching trades to refugees and immigrants.

I am proud of my growth as a business owner and leader. I consider myself a mentor and want to use my voice and platform to let women know that hard work pays off and to stay positive when things are hard. As women we work against forces, hierarchies and preconceived notions. We have to prove ourselves and are put in compromising positions where we may question our value and our worth. Women already work tirelessly and have to try to achieve balance in their lives to stay sane and be a good example to their children. I say all the time: "A woman's work is never done."

Vermont small business winners will receive their awards during the 2022 Vermont Small Business Awards Ceremony co-hosted with Vermont Business Magazine June 16. The ceremony is open to the public and registration will be available in May.



GCS student artwork

Let's Gather Guilford, continued

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Protecting Native Turtles

BY CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY

Wood and Spotted Turtles thrive in environments with clean water, but they need space to roam on land as well, so improving habitat connectivity between land and water benefits them greatly. This not only helps rare turtles, but also creates habitat for other fish and wildlife, cleanses the water, and improves recreational opportunities. Farm Bill conservation programs also promote agricultural sustainability. "Programs like this are a win for everybody" said Kiley Briggs, Director of Conservation with The Orianne Society (TOS).

Reptiles and amphibians have an incredible value and play integral roles in the function of healthy ecosystems. TOS works to conserve critical ecosystems for imperiled reptiles and amphibians using science, applied conservation and education. Learn more about Wood and Spotted Turtles, and TOS's mission at



Wood Turtle, courtesy of Connecticut River Conservancy

www.orianne.org.

Since 1952, Connecticut River Conservancy has been the voice for the Connecticut River watershed, from source to sea. They collaborate with partners across four states to protect and advocate for the river and educate and engage communities. They bring people together to prevent pollution, improve habitat, and promote enjoyment of the Connecticut River and its tributary streams. Healthy rivers support healthy economies. To learn more about CRC, or to make a

contribution to help protect rivers and local wildlife, visit www.ctriver.org.

The CRC recently announced that they have received a new grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that will help protect native turtles. The grant will fund landowner outreach by CRC and wood turtle site assessment by TOS, CRC's project partner.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has designated

northeast turtles as a "Working Lands for Wildlife" priority and offers programs to help with their conservation. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and each state wildlife agency have prioritized the restoration and preservation of the wood turtle, advancing both conservation science and action plans. This grant will help unite efforts by this coalition of organizations and find new project sites to help this species rebound and thrive.

Wood Turtles (*Glyptemys insculpta*) and Spotted Turtles (*Clemmys guttata*) are the special focus of this project. Wood Turtles are considered a Species of Conservation Concern in the three states where CRC will focus outreach efforts. These turtles have suffered declines due to illegal collecting, development, agriculture, and stream alterations. CRC and TOS will work with federal and state agency partners in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts to find willing landowners and sites that will lead to improving working lands, water quality, and wood turtle habitat in the Connecticut River watershed.

U.S. Constitution Study Group

BY CONNIE BURTON

Gain the ability to discuss the Constitution knowledgeably and with confidence. Learn of the hard work and immense dedication that went into the framing of this amazing document. Learn of the duties that are ours as citizens of the country that is governed by this enduring document. You are invited to join a group of fellow Guilfordites who have been pursuing a course of study on the United States

Constitution with its Bill of Rights and other Amendments and are hosting study sessions open to any and everyone in the area. For more information please contact Connie Burton at 802-257-1550 or email connie@burtoncarwash.com. If you've already been in touch with Connie, rest assured that you will be contacted as soon as time and place are solidified.

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Guilford Selectboard Update

BY VERANDAH PORCHE, VICE CHAIR, GUILFORD SELECTBOARD

With sugaring in full swing, but no Town Meeting to bring residents together, the Guilford Selectboard began a new season. Zon Eastes and Verandah Porche were elected Chair and Vice Chair. It is our hope that with shared pandemic vigilance in 2022, we will be able to conduct the business of Guilford in person, with Zoom providing greater community access. Improved, affordable broadband is always on our minds.

At each new term, the Selectboard reflects on the past and resets goals. Recently, we revised our procedures to advance transparency, trust, and communication. At the start of each bi-weekly meeting, ten minutes will be reserved for members of the public to speak directly to the town. We will ask each individual to keep remarks to three minutes so that others can be heard. While the board can't address issues raised at the same meeting, they can be placed on the agenda at future meetings.

In addition to a bi-weekly highway department update, the board will schedule an informal report from our State Representative, or from a town commission, department, committee, or local nonprofit, to encourage even greater collaboration. Selectboard members continue to serve as liaisons to each Town commission or committee.

The Selectboard's season opened with the unfinished business of ARPA funds. (The American Rescue Plan Act provided

once-in-a-lifetime COVID recovery support to every community. In 2021, the Selectboard set up an application process for individual households, businesses, and nonprofits harmed by the pandemic, but program changes delayed response.)

Summarizing work so far, the Selectboard

- allocated the first round of funds in a public meeting, while protecting the privacy of vulnerable residents;
- compiled a resource list with help from our State Rep and Guilford Cares, and published it widely (it is here in this issue of the Gazette);
- convened an ARPA Advisor Committee to tackle the complex task of gathering ideas and bringing forward recommendations for projects

to benefit Guilford;

- supported the Planning Commission and took on the next steps in advancing the Draft Town Plan;
- assisted the Algiers Fire District with creating a functional plan; and
- is responding to the petition for the reconsideration of Article 7, funding for construction and improvement of the Guilford Free Library.

When John Kristensen was Moderator of Guilford's Town Meeting, at the start he'd remind those attending *We are all neighbors here*. We on the Selectboard are committed amateurs, fallible and dedicated to serving all who live here, with candor and kindness. We continue to welcome your participation.




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Community Resources

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

Hard Times? Here's Help: These resources address many needs and are available now. For support with access contact www.guilfordcares.org 802-579-1350, or verandahporche@guilfordvt.org

Covid Updates	State of Vermont	www.healthvermont.gov/covid19	
General Questions	Vermont 211	www.vermont211.org	Dial 211
	Senior Solutions	www.seniorsolutionsvt.org/services	866-673-8376 802-885-2669
	SEVCA (Southeastern VT Community Action)	www.sevca.org	800-464-9951
	Youth Services	www.youthservicesinc.org	802-257-0361
	Guilford Cares	www.guilfordcares.com	802-579-1350
	Women's Freedom Center	www.womensfreedomcenter.net	Hotline 802-254-6954; Windham County Office 802-257-7364
Food Assistance	Dept of Children & Families, 3Squares, Reach Up	www.dcf.vermont.gov/esd	800-479-6121
	Hunger Free VT	www.hungerfreevt.org	802-865-0255
	Community Food Access	www.nofavt.org/programs	802-434-4122
	Guilford Cares Food Pantry	www.guilfordcares.com	802-579-1350
	Vernon Bread of Life Food Pantry		802-257-2341
Medical Assistance	Planned Parenthood of Northern NE	www.plannedparenthood.org	802-257-0534
	Brattleboro Walk-in Clinic	www.brattleborowalkinclinic.org	802-251-8484
	AIDS Project of So. VT	www.aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org	802-254-4444
LGBTQ Resources	Out in the Open	www.weareoutintheopen.org	info@weareoutintheopen.org
Mental Health, substance use	Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition	www.brattleboroareapreventioncoalition.org	802-257-2175
	HCRS Emergency Hotline		800-622-4235
	HCRS Services	www.hcrs.org	855-220-9428
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Continued on page 10



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Community Resources, continued

Housing: overdue bills, repairs, moving	VT State Housing Authority	www.erap.vsha.org	833-488-3727
Housing: overdue mortgage, taxes	Vermont Housing Finance Agency	www.vhfa.org	800-339-5866
Housing: legal aspects of foreclosure, eviction	Legal Services Vermont	www.vtlawhelp.org	833-488-3727
	SEVCA	www.sevca.org	800-464-9951
Home buying, repair	Windham & Windsor Housing Trust	www.homemattershere.org/home-repair	802-254-4604
Emergency Heat	Windham County Emergency Heat Fund		802-254-4285 802-254-2240
Weatherizing	SEVCA	www.sevca.org	800-464-9951
	Dept. of Children & Families	www.dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/weatherization	802-241-0935
In-home Accessibility	VT Center for Independent Living	www.vcil.org/services/home-access-program	802-224-1827
Unemployment Benefits, Jobs	State of Vermont Dept. of Labor	www.labor.vermont.gov	802-254-4555
Medicaid	State of VT Agency of Human Services, Dept. of VT Health Access	www.dvha.vermont.gov	802-879-5900
Business: /COVID Resources	State of Vt Agency for Commerce & Development	www.accd.vermont.gov/covid-19	802-828-3080
	State of Vermont Dept. of Taxes	www.tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus#relief	802-828-2865
Farms, Agricultural & Food Businesses	State of Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets	www.agriculture.vermont.gov/grants	802-828-2430
Artists, Cultural Organizations	Vermont Arts Council	www.vermontartscouncil.org/covid-19	802-828-3291



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Guilford Graduates 2022

Congratulations to the following graduates:

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Liam Conathan-Leach
Briar Cutting
Aliza Evans Mahoney
Eliza Frehsee
Elodie Hoskins
Alysia Johnston
Evelyn Moody
Anastasia Moshovetis
Jordan Paquette
Rosie Schneski
Kennedy Unaitis

BAMS

Evan Batts
Angelo Chaffin
Nico Conathan-Leach
Brook Hanson
Haley Jo Hardin
Kylie Ellen Jarvis
Cooper LaFlam
Daniel Liam Poor
Anthony Rayno
Paige Renaud
Finley Rockafellow
Mae Schneski
Willow Scout Sharma
Griffin Woodruff
Stockton V Woodruff
Peter Yobst

BUHS

Neda Amiri
Brenna Beebe
Alexander Belogour
Zoe Chaffin
Turner Clews
Isaac Finnell
Gabriel French
Elijah Frost
Tyler Gianpoalo
Timberlyn Hodgdon-Pulsifer
Finn LaMorder
Avari Martin
Tenzin Mathes
Miguel Ramirez
Sophia Renaud
Alex Scherlin
Ryder Sullivan
Skylar Tourville
Peter Vanderstine
Julian Young



Scholarship Reminder: Applications Due May 20

BY DON MCLEAN

The deadline for high school seniors to apply for the three different Guilford scholarships is May 20. Details about each:

Grange Scholarship: One \$1,000 award. Eligibility: BUHS graduating senior, accepted at a two- or four-year college or trade school; ; applicant must have lived in Guilford for 2 of the past 4 years.. Contact Grange Scholarship Chair Mike Szostak: school phone 802-451-3434 or preferably his email address: mszostak@wsesdvt.org.

Bullock Scholarship (Guilford Town): \$3,000 divided between one or more applicants. Students at two- or four-year higher learning institutions, including tech school and post-grad work. First-year and continuing students may apply. Contact Town Clerk, Penny Marine, at pennymarine@guilfordvt.net or the Bullock Scholarship Committee: Kathryn Mason at kathamason@gmail.com.

Recreation Club Scholarship: Applicants must be BUHS seniors, Guilford residents

planning to attend a two- or four-year college or trade school for fall semester after BUHS graduation. Contact Carol Schnabel at petecar86@comcast.net or by mail to: Guilford Recreation Club, PO Box 2679, West Brattleboro VT 05303.

BUHS students can obtain applications for the scholarships at the Counseling Office or school Naviance platform, where all the BUHS/local scholarships are listed.

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Guilford Free Library's Summer 2022 Camps

BY CATHI WILKEN

Healthy minds begin with healthy bodies. The Camp schedule for this year begins with Peter Welch, Erin Tkaczyk and Matt Valentine for a rousing week of Soccer for fifth - eighth graders, July 11-15.

Stream Story is Stage and Stream for younger ones, grades 2-5, from July 25-29, where we practice the elements of improv and explore the inspiration found in nature! This new camp experience will be led by Maia Gilmour, who created Stage and Stream for older kids six years ago.

Stage and Stream expands this year (see

Maia Gilmour's article on this page). Now thanks to a 2022 Humanities Camp Grant through Vermont Humanities Council, we offer two weeks of full-day camp for children who've completed fifth-eighth grades, from August 1-12.

Nature Stories is led by GCS pre-k teacher Emma Hallowell for a week of play, exploration, and discovery from August 15-19. We'll explore nature stories, play games, and have fun being in nature. Emma has taught at GCS for 10 years, and helped start the nature-based pre-k program five years ago. She loves

spending time outside with little people, nurturing learning through play. Fully enrolled, waiting list only.

Each camp begins and ends at the library. Breakfast and healthy snacks are provided. There is no charge for any Guilford child, but a minimal charge will be made for a child who lives out of town. Transportation will be provided by Library trustees for any child who needs it in order to attend. Call 802-257-4603 or email staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org for more information.

Stage & Stream Expanding Too

BY MAIA GILMOUR

Expansion is a big theme at the Library these days, making more space and more opportunities. The annual Stage & Stream camp is following that theme as well! For the past six years, Stage & Stream has been a week-long day camp experience for 5th-8th graders, and for the last two years, it was spearheaded by a solo teacher, Maia Gilmour, along with some wonderful helpers and visiting artists.

For our seventh year we are growing! Why? The 5th-8th graders have perpetually expressed that one week is too short. Campers always want more! More

theatre, improvisation, and forest exploration, and even more reading, writing and learning! This year, we are finally able to act on this request thanks to the 2022 Humanities Camp Grant through Vermont Humanities. With the support from this funding, we are adding a second week! Not only do we get more time together, but we are also lucky to welcome a second full-time co-teacher to help develop the curriculum in new and exciting ways. This year, our focus will be connecting the principles of permaculture to the elements of theatre making, and discussing what lessons we can echo into our

communities through this intersection of wisdom. The funding will also let us bring in guest speakers to help us learn more about the indigenous histories of where we play!

But we're not only expanding, we are also developing something completely new! Never before has this camp been available to 2nd-5th graders. But this year, it is! Introducing: Stream Story! This one-week half-day camp will involve the same "flavors" as Stage & Stream, but will be specially crafted for the younger folks in the community. It will be a theatrical experience, sure to inspire the expressive side of each camper!

Library's "Send a Kid to Camp" Raffle

BY LYNN GREEN

The Guilford Free Library has been carrying on traditions for 131 years but if you ask our parents and children probably the one most anticipated is summer camp. Where else would our youngest residents find such talented camp counselors offering such wonderful programs—and all for free (and only \$50 for non-residents). The best part is that the camps are free because there is another tradition, now in its twelfth

year: the annual "Send a Kid to Camp" raffle, which gives everyone the opportunity to make this program possible year after year.

Let's get down to business first. Each raffle ticket you buy for \$10 gives you a chance to win one of three pairs of gifts, each business offering a \$50 gift certificate: Embue Cacao and the Guilford Country Store; Hermit Thrush Homestead and Hazel restaurant; Tapalou Guilds and Tito's Taqueria. Tickets

are available on the library website at guilfordfreelibraryvt.org; at the library (4024 Guilford Center Road, 802-257-4603); or by contacting a Library Trustee or Friend of the Library.

But that's not all. The three winning tickets will be drawn at a concert at the Guilford Fairgrounds on June 11, featuring the Rear Defrosters, a honkytonk, country soul,

Continued on next page



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Updates and Expressions of Gratitude from Guilford Cares

BY LEAH GESSNER

Tai Chi Classes are meeting regularly at the Guilford Community Church on Wednesday mornings. There are two classes, 9:30-10:15 and 10:30-11:15. Beginners are welcome to this Tai Chi for Falls Prevention program, sponsored at no charge by Guilford Cares.

Senior Walks are back! A walk-a-month, May through October. Our tentative schedule at the time of this writing is the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10:30. Proposed walks are:

- **May** – *Weeks Forest Trail* with Karen Murphy. The brook should be babbling loudly for us in the Spring.
- **June** – *Packer Corners Stroll*: Hear about the old farmhouse and one-room schoolhouse now guest house, tour gardens and stone sculptures with Verandah Porche and Lana Golden.
- **July** – *Keets Brook Road*: Take a shady, quiet, scenic walk.
- **August** – *Green River Meadows*: Walk the riverside trail and visit the swimming holes on this recently conserved 18-acre parcel



Seniors gather for a walk near the Green River

with Linda Lembke.

• **September** – *Carpenter House*: Explore trails around the historic Carpenter House and cemetery.

• **October** – *Leaf peeping surprise*

Lap Walk, a brand-new activity, begins in late April. We will meet at the Playscape on Carpenter Hill Road (just past the library and around the bend) on Friday mornings to walk the short perimeter path and visit with others looking to enjoy the outdoors and get fitter. The Playscape is a perfect location because it

is smooth, flat and has a lovely brook and picnic tables. Walkers can do one lap and take a rest, or 25 laps depending on fitness and desire. Perhaps some folks would like to log their laps!

Watch for announcements or contact Guilford Cares at 802-579-1350; guilfordcaresvt@gmail.com.

We would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” to all our neighbors who have supported our work over the past year with volunteer hours and generous contributions. The success of our annual appeal speaks volumes. You are letting us know how much you appreciate our services. That inspires us as we look ahead with gratitude and confidence, knowing that you will be there with your support. The need never goes away. We will be there with a caring hand.

Guilford Cares Board of Directors

Barbara Borek	Pat Haine
Richard Chapin	Anne Montgomery
Catherine Varges	Sandy Lynn
Bridget Gardner	Shirley Squires
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Library Raffle, continued

rock-n-roll band, whose players come from Vermont, New Hampshire, and western Massachusetts. A chance to win great prizes and a concert to boot—it doesn’t get better than that!

But actually, it does—for all the children who will experience the wonderful summer camps and for all the supporters who

make this possible. (See the Library Camp article on page 12 for details.)

“Our summer camps have always offered our children fun, learning and the opportunity to be with other children and make new friends,” commented Guilford Librarian Cathi Wilken, “but they have been especially important over the past two years when many of the social outlets disappeared. We were so pleased to be

able to carry on with the major support of our community and are looking forward to yet another great summer of camp fun with everyone’s help.”

As the saying goes, “You have to be in it to win it!” so get your tickets and put the concert on your calendar. And sign your kids up for summer camp at guilfordfreelibraryvt.org/programs.

A black and white advertisement for Burton Car Wash. It features a car being washed by a brush. The text reads: "burton Touch Free! CAR WASH & SELF SERVICE", "873 Putney Road, Brattleboro", "802-257-5191", "24 hr. Touch Free Washing • Self-Service Wand Wash", "burtoncarwash.com", and "find us on facebook" with a Facebook logo.

A black and white advertisement for Franklin Farm. It features a group of cows in a field. The text reads: "farm store open year 'round", "1-802-254-2228", "4708 Weatherhead Hollow Rd.", "Guilford, VT 05301", "Franklin FARM", and "franklinfarmstore.com".

The Legacy of the Green River Bridge House Lives On

BY JOSLYN MCINTYRE, WITH THANKS TO GAIL LYNDE

When the Green River Bridge House was built in 1830, it sat smack in the heart of a lively hamlet with its own post office. In fact, that post office—one of four in Guilford at the time—was located in the house itself, and didn't officially close until 1913. Later, the locals visited their mailboxes inside the adjacent Green River Covered Bridge. This made the bridge a popular meeting spot and inspired a Connecticut newspaper to once call Green River "the only place in the world where you have to drive through the Post Office to get from one side of town to the other."

This iconic house sits opposite the historic timber dam, originally the site of a paper and linseed oil mill—one of the only surviving crib dams in Vermont and a beloved Guilford swimming hole. According to the Beers Map of 1869 (and oral history), the Bridge House barn also held the neighborhood blacksmith shop.

This is an abridged history of the gorgeous yellow house at the intersection of Stage Road and Green River Road. But in its current incarnation, it's equally essential to the community as an inn. And Joan Seymour, the most recent proprietor, has now handed the reins over to new owner Bob Johnson of Brattleboro, who reopened the inn just this spring after a brief pandemic hiatus.

Bob's intention for the Green River Bridge House is to keep the spirit of the inn alive—an alluring place for visitors to stay in a picturesque rural setting. While true to its historic facade, the inn was restored in 2000 to bring the inside up to date with a modern renovation.



Then: Mrs. Henry Stowe, the final postmaster at the Green River Bridge House, standing with Marion (Thomas) Lynde at the front door. Credit to Dave & Elinor Peters (photo likely taken by Arthur Lynde)



Continued on next page

Now: The Green River Bridge House, courtesy of Bob Johnson

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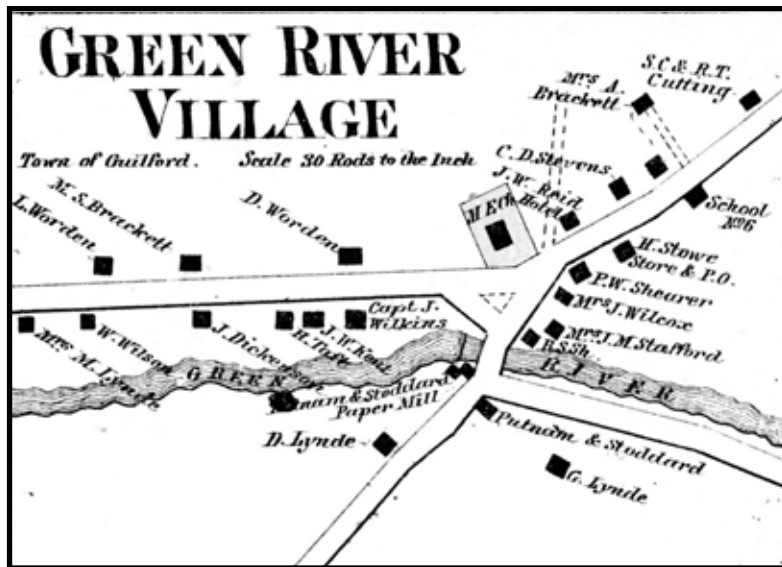
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Inside the Green River Bridge House, courtesy of Bob Johnson



The Beers Map of 1869 of Green River

Guilford Volunteer Fire Department News

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

The Fire Department has a few of the fundraising shirts remaining showing our most current fire truck. Here are the sizes, along with the number of shirts remaining:

Kids small - 10 (\$10 ea)

Adult: L - 5, XL - 14, 2XL - 5, 4XL - 5 (\$20 ea)

You may contact any fire department member or leave a message at the station (802-254-4413)

Fire Department Statistics

January

9 fire

12 medical calls

2 mutual aid

February:

11 fire

12 medical calls

3 mutual aid

March::

7 fire

4 medical calls

2 mutual aid

Green River Bridge House, continued

Original floors remain, and the style of decor harkens back to earlier days, but today, the Green River Bridge House also has holistic spa treatments and free Wi-Fi.

Bob has retained a Mrs. Lee Mann and her husband, also conveniently named Bob, as residing innkeepers. Tell your friends and family: the Green River Bridge House is back open and ready for their next visit! Bookings taken at <https://www.greenriverbridgeinn.com>.



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Guilford Resident Wins Award

National Arts Strategies (NAS) has selected Guilford resident Susan Rosano, a Registered Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator and Mosaic Artist, as a 2021-2022 New England Creative Community Fellow.

Based on her experience as an Expressive Arts Consultant and Educator working with seniors throughout New England, Rosano teaches seniors how to document their life histories using written composition and pictorial arts to record their stories.

Over the 10-month fellowship, Rosano will create her “Wisdom in Our Community” project, adaptable to a wide variety of settings, from senior centers to assisted living to hospice programs. “There is a very deep vein of knowledge in our communities” Rosano said. “My goal is to transform negative ideas about aging in our culture into positive beliefs about the strength and wisdom of senior citizens and their contributions to communities.”



Susan Rosano reads a story by a patient in a Connecticut hospice program

In the past, while working in a Connecticut hospice program, Rosano’s leadership brought artwork by hospice patients to many galleries in Connecticut as a show called “Completing the Journey: The Art of Hospice.” The show traveled around the state continuously for two years.

Rosano’s goal is to initiate her “Wisdom in Our Community” project throughout the region by teaching staff and volunteers who work with seniors to implement her project in their locations and showcase the resulting artwork to the wider community. The fellowship will support her in this effort. “We need to showcase the value of our seniors and how they impact society. Exhibiting this work to the public is important not only to all of us but especially to the person creating the art.”

The ten-month fellowship offers Rosano online and in-person learning opportunities and a place to discuss the intricacies of her fellowship project while interacting with faculty, mentors and other fellows. The fellowship carries with it a \$10,000 stipend funded by the Barr Foundation. When the program ends in ten months, fellows then join an international network of NAS program alumni to further develop connections and collaborations.

Supporting Better Outcomes for Vermont’s Children

BY REP. MOLLIE S. BURKE (BRATTLEBORO) AND REP. SARA COFFEY (GUILFORD AND VERNON)
CO-CHAIRS, WOMEN’S LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

Children of incarcerated parents have committed no crime, yet they pay a steep penalty. They often forfeit their home, their safety, their public status, self-image, and their primary source of comfort and stability.

This biennium, members of the Women’s Legislative Caucus made the issue of parental incarceration a top priority by introducing H.399, legislation that seeks to ensure the fair and compassionate treatment of children whose parents are involved in the criminal justice system. H.399 proposes to afford these children certain basic considerations when decisions are made that affect them, particularly at the time of their parents’ sentencing.

Studies show that separation from a parent because of incarceration qualifies as an “adverse childhood experience,” distinguished from other adverse childhood experiences by the unique combination of trauma, shame, and stigma. It

jeopardizes a child’s social and emotional well-being, and can result in behavioral problems, academic failure, substance abuse, mental health issues, and incarceration in adulthood.

A Vermont Department of Corrections 2014 Inmate Family Survey Project conducted by the University of Vermont found that 2,000 Vermont children experience parental incarceration on any given day. The yearly number of impacted children is over 6,000. Data from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children’s Health and Adverse Family Experiences found that 1 in 17 children in Vermont had a mother or father in prison.

Research suggests that intervening in the lives of incarcerated parents and their children preserves and strengthens positive family connections that can yield positive societal benefits in the form of reduced recidivism, less intergenerational criminal justice system involvement, and promotion of healthy child development.

Currently Vermont does not have a

formalized process to evaluate an offender’s caregiving responsibilities and the potential effects of incarceration on children. If passed into law, H.399 would both require the courts to consider the caregiving status of defendants before sentencing and standardize the way courts consider caregiver status. This legislation would also help mitigate unintended consequences and support better outcomes for Vermont’s children and lower recidivism for their parents. Other states (Massachusetts, Washington, Illinois, Tennessee, and California) have passed similar legislation, and we hope that Vermont will soon join their ranks with H.399.

On March 17th H.399 passed the Vermont House on a unanimous voice vote. The bill is now on its way to the Vermont Senate, and Vermont is one step closer to reforming Vermont’s criminal justice system with a child- and family-centered approach to sentencing.

Welcoming New Neighbors

BY LINDA HAY

On Jan. 2, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in West Brattleboro welcomed Thomas Huddleston to speak about the Afghan refugees who would be resettled in our area. The most pressing need was for housing for 100 new neighbors. That caught my attention. My home consists of two parts, a new two-bedroom home with a farmhouse kitchen and light-filled living room, connected by a breezeway to a compact cottage. The cottage was designed for a single person (me), and is built above a one room studio/office.

The idea of sharing my home with refugees appealed to me, as living alone there had not been my intention when I had it built. Circumstances changed my original plan. Offering a place to stay for people who desperately needed it would be perfect, so I said I would be willing to share my house. When told that they particularly needed a place for young single women, I was enthusiastic. The house and I could be of use, and I would feel very comfortable with the women they described.

When I was librarian at Academy School, I had shared space with two ESL teachers. Rarely had the teachers and students spoken common languages. I knew communicating was not impossible. I have often ventured into the countryside in European countries where I do not speak the local language.

So a volunteer brought four young Afghan women to meet me in mid-February. They were impressed by how spacious the house is and eager to see the then snow-covered gardens in the spring. Luckily, one was a trained English teacher in her home country. She

translated, and I dragged out a skill from my past—speaking slowly, clearly, in easily understood words.

Then I plunged into preparation, praying I'd be up to it. With help from the members of All Souls, we got the place ready with furniture, linens, kitchen equipment—you name it. By the first week of March even the cupboards were ready, with Basmati rice, pistachios, dried apricots, lentils, etc.

When three of the women showed up at last, there was a flurry of settling in, and then the learning curve for all of us steepened. My advance reading about Afghanistan and its culture came in handy. Still, I had to apply my imagination to expand what they told me of their own lives in Afghanistan to figure out what might be of help. They know cell phones, but not the mysterious products in our grocery stores or what goes in the refrigerator. The purpose of road signs was unclear.

As their new lives unfold, I have developed enormous respect for all three. So much is new and strange. They left homes where all generations lived together, ate together, sharing close ties. The elders had all the answers. Now they are on their own in a land of strangers, strange homes, food, and customs, a language written with a different alphabet. Thank goodness they have cell phones!

I am so grateful that, at 74, I am having a new adventure, doing something worth doing with three charming new friends. A bonus is getting to know more members of my own community. I hope there will be opportunities for more Guilfordites to meet our new neighbors and begin to share a wider knowledge of the world.

In Memoriam



Longtime Guilford teacher, gardener and musician Margaret Dale Barrand died on February 5, 2022. She taught first grade for over 20 years, bringing to her work a special, quiet patience and an ability to deeply listen to and respect the needs and joys of children. After retiring from Guilford School, she co-taught in the Art in the Neighborhood program in Brattleboro. She was able to spot the child who needed help amid the hubbub of a busy art classroom.

She will be greatly missed.

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Making Things

BY NANCY DETRA

"I want to live in a society where people are intoxicated with the joy of making things." William Coperthwaite, from *A Handmade Life*.

Mike Iacona likes designing and building yurts. He didn't grow up in a yurt. He and his wife Nika and their two young daughters don't live in a yurt now.

It seems ironic, but, when you get to know Mike better you see that it all fits together. He likes to figure out how to build things.

"Everything from spoons to a house," he told me. I wanted to see if I could build an energy efficient passive solar house."

And he has. He's built a lovely house off Sweet Pond Road that goes a long way towards heating itself.

Mike says he was attracted to the concept of the yurt long before he and Nika came to live in Guilford. After completing a degree in finance at Penn State he knew that he enjoyed working with numbers, but he wasn't interested in a career in finance. Instead, he spent a couple years traveling and working on organic farms. During that time he met a lot of folks who were not carving

out careers to make money. Some built their own homes. He saw some

yurts. He fell in love with them then, and that love has carried him into the present.

The traditional yurt, the fabric-covered

yurt, is what the nomadic people from Mongolia traveled with.

"I appreciate its roundness, its simplicity; it's a great example of folk wisdom." But that's not the kind he designs and teaches people how to build in his current business, Dickinson's Reach Yurts. In fact, his lovely designs are inspired by a man named Bill Coperthwaite, who "invented" the taper-walled type and who mentored Mike. Mike says Bill began building these yurts as an experiment. "The angled-out walls protect the foundation, so it doesn't need so much waterproofing," Mike explains. "And it makes the interior space seem larger at eye level." He also loves the beauty of the build-

ings themselves, and how they complement their surroundings. "They're less imposing," he says. The wall even makes a comfortably angled back rest when you sit against it.

"Designing the yurts involves a lot of numbers," he adds. He offers plans for different-sized taper-wall yurts on his website, dickinsonsreach.com (or dryurts.com). The name is a tribute to Bill

Copertwaite, whose home in Maine went

Continued on next page



A Cache yurt



Mike (far left) enjoys the camaraderie at a yurt sauna workshop



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What Does 30x30 Mean for Vermont?

BY THE GUILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Imagine for a moment that every creature on Earth got one wish. What would your one wish be? And what might be the one wish of a maple tree? A mushroom? A salmon? A salamander? Let us agree for a moment that every creature might share the same single wish: to survive.

These creatures represent an infinitesimal fraction of life on the planet and happen to be ones that we humans can see and recognize; millions more are invisible to us, and yet every one is a part of Earth's vast ecosystem. For a very long time, all of them have found ways to survive and interact so that all may live and thrive—if not individually, then as a species.

Sadly this is no longer true.

Humans have discovered too late that the vast web of life we as a species have taken for granted and used as we pleased is more fragile and complex than we thought and is now endangered everywhere. Fortunately, we have also discovered that Earth excels at healing itself—but in order to do so, must be given room and time to repair the damage. Unfortunately we can't all go away and wait until it gets better. We wish to survive along with all the other inhabitants of this planet that we cherish.

The good news is that climate scientists know how to help give Earth the time and space it needs to heal. The author E.O. Wilson names it "Half-Earth"—a call to protect half the Earth's land and sea in order to manage sufficient habitat to reverse species extinction and ensure the long-term health of our planet.

Half of the Earth and sea is a lot, but we can make a start: 30x30

is a global initiative to conserve at least 30 percent of the earth's land, water, and oceans by 2030. The United States, along with more than 70 other countries, embraced this goal last year when President Biden signed an executive order to conserve 30 percent of U.S. land, water and oceans by 2030. In March the Vermont House gave preliminary approval for the state to join this worldwide 30x30 goal in bill H.606. Other bills under consideration promote inclusion of old forests in Vermont's Current Use Program and amend Act 250 to promote housing in "smart growth areas," maintaining and conserving intact forests.

Vermont is a significant part of the Northeastern Forest that extends from Eastern Canada through the New England states. An urgent need climate scientists agree on is to preserve intact forests rich in biodiversity that allow species to migrate as the climate changes. By concentrating housing development in areas that are already populated and reducing road building and development in forested areas, we help create regions where Earth can heal itself, and continue

to filter water, recycle nutrients, and limit global warming by storing large amounts of carbon: ecosystem services that all creatures depend on for survival.

For the sake of our children, and theirs, and all the creatures Earth shelters, can we and the State of Vermont work together on ways to help the planet heal? Stay tuned in our next installment for ideas about how individuals and groups of citizens in Guilford can participate.

"An increasing body of evidence demonstrates that climatic risks to people can be lowered by strengthening nature, meaning that we invest in protecting nature and rebuilding ecosystems to benefit both people and biodiversity." – From The 2022 Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)]

Making Things, continued

by that name.

"(Taper-walled yurts) are not my design in any way," Mike says. They are a product of Bill's ingenuity.

With great respect for Bill, Mike carries on the tradition of Bill's construction style, but also of his willingness to experiment, to have fun trying out ways of making things.

"He'd just try different things and see what happens," Mike remembers.

Another important part of Bill's legacy is that it celebrates people coming together with their different backgrounds and skills to work on a project.

"Everybody's part of the story (of creating a beautiful structure)," Nika adds.

Mike doesn't confine himself to building just yurts. On the day of this interview he was unloading some materials from his car

that he and a friend had been using to build ladderback chairs, with only hand tools. Mike loves the slow, quiet process of carving and shaping the chairs.

"There's very little dust," Mike remark and smiles, "And the shavings make good kindling."

For more information about upcoming workshops, go to the workshops page of Mike's website: dickinsonsreachyurts.com.



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Sugaring Season at GCS: A Sweet Learning Experience for All

BY SARAH ROSOW



On a cloudy morning in late March, parent volunteers arrived at the outdoor pavilion at Guilford Central School with spatulas in hand, ready to

set up propane cook stoves and make upwards of 300 pancakes to help students celebrate their sugaring season. This culminating event came at the end of a month of hands-on learning experiences centered around maple sugaring, a vital element of Vermont history and culture.

Students in pre-K through sixth grade learned how to identify sugar maples in winter, tap trees, hang buckets, and gather and strain sap. They visited and observed the school's sap boiler and learned about the science of evaporation. Younger students participated in play-based sugaring activities and wrote and illustrated "How to Make Maple Syrup" books, while older students hauled and stacked wood, learned how to use hydrometers, calculated the percentage of sugar in our sap, and used multiplication, division, and ratios to determine how much maple syrup our sap would yield.

In the end, we made a gallon and a half of dark and smoky maple syrup, which students enjoyed on their pancakes. Their appreciation and enjoyment of this



particular maple syrup was deepened by their involvement in its creation. One young student described it as "delicious and delectable," and another called it "magical." Experiential learning in the outdoors is always a valuable time (and a big hit) for GCS students.



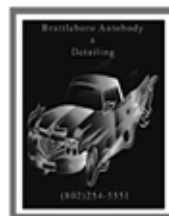
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Guilford Folk Learning Connections Brings Neighbors Together

BY CHRIS BEEBE

Guilford spans 40 square miles and is home to over 2,000 people, each with their own unique stories, experiences, and knowledge. Whether it is families stretching back to Guilford's founding or those who have recently moved here, we all share a connection to the land, yet are as different as the roads are muddy.

Lending a skilled-hand or sharing an experience with our neighbors is a common occurrence in Guilford, and one which lays the foundation for the communal bonds that make living here special. The knowledge, skills, kindness, and understanding of life are woven into the roots and mountains, where learning isn't just a transfer of knowledge, it's a form of connection.

A new, loosely formed group called "Guilford Folk Learning Connections" seeks to bring neighbors together to learn and share their history and knowledge with one another. Whether it's foraging, painting, meditation, farming, astronomy, storytelling, connection with elders, or any number of yet-to-be-determined topics, Guilford Folk will be coordinating fun, casual activities where life experience can be shared with those within our collective home of Guilford. The events typically cost nothing, with the only currency exchanged being



The Frosts share stories at a backyard sugaring demonstration

shared time and intention.

In January of this year, to help stave off the winter doldrums, Guilford Folk coordinated a 'Winter Pen Pals' event with the Guilford Free Library that aimed to connect people through old-fashioned letter writing. New friendships were fostered, existing ones deepened, and any number of hand-cramps were endured as participants once again experienced what multiple pages of long form writing feels like.

Last month, Guilford Folk coordinated with local farms for the shared experience of maple sugaring. While there were plenty of maple samples for the kids and good conversations for the adults, the real takeaway

was that over a dozen people expanded their knowledge of the land, and experienced and heard stories about this time-honored spring tradition.

Previous events launched by Guilford Folk members include "Guilford Free University," where community members shared their skills and knowledge in a series of class-oriented events, and "Community Cocina," which brought people together for collective cooking and dining at the Broad Brook Community Center.

Through the centuries Guilford has drawn individuals with unique perspectives and experiences. Over the coming years,

Guilford Folk looks to honor our individuality and understanding of life as a means of connection, both with individually driven events or in partnership with the myriad of active organizations and initiatives already operating in town.

If you are interested in celebrating this tradition of communal, supportive learning please reach out to John, Ragan, Grace or Nika (the founding group) at GuilfordFolk@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list. They would be very interested in discussing a skill, hobby, or interest you would like to share or learn about, or if you would just like to learn more.

Energy Committee Taking Orders for Window Inserts Now

BY NANCY DETRA

Would you like to have a warmer home, save money and reduce your use of fossil fuel next winter? The Guilford Energy Committee can help. It has joined forces with a Maine nonprofit, WindowDressers, to build custom insulating window inserts. The inserts fit inside of your existing windows to let in all the sunlight and views while keeping more heat in your home. They are high quality and low cost because they are built at barn-raising-style Community Builds across Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. Everyone who orders inserts also participates in the Community Build.

The inserts are built of attractive pine

frames and wrapped drum-tight with a durable plastic film to create clear views through an insulating air space. Foam weather stripping around the outer edges stops drafts and ensures the insert's tight, custom fit. Depending on the efficiency of your windows and home, you could see fuel savings of up to 20% with inserts in place.

Once you sign up, trained volunteers will call to schedule a time to measure your windows for the inserts. Then, in the fall, you and other community volunteers will gather to build the inserts at a Community Build on the Winston-Prouty campus in Brattleboro.

Pricing is based on the exact size of the insert. A medium-sized 30 x 52 insert in pine

costs \$44 plus tax. Window Dressers offers low-income households up to 10 pine inserts at no charge.

The Guilford Energy Committee is accepting orders now for the fall Community Build. Our volunteers will begin measuring windows this spring.

The number of homes taken on by the Community Build is limited to about 40, so interested households in the Brattleboro/Guilford area should sign up right away at www.WindowDressers.org.

Questions? Call Nancy Detra at 802-254-4762.

Dispatches from the GCS Diversity + Equity Committee

BY THE GCS DIVERSITY + EQUITY COMMITTEE

Faculty and staff at Guilford Central School recognize the importance of diversity and equity as a central tenet of their work with students. Indeed, many studies show that when both students and teachers are equipped with these important lessons, their overall learning environment is enhanced. Learning outcomes are improved when both students and teachers have the tools to better empathize with people of different backgrounds and beliefs, reduce prejudice, foster creativity, and improve student achievement. In an increasingly globally connected world, we recognize the heightened challenges we have faced in our country — and in our communities — with issues related to race, ethnicity, culture, and difference.

As part of this important work, GCS joined with the national coalition Black Lives Matter at School to learn more about racial justice in education, focusing on the first four values of the Black Lives Matter movement: Restorative Justice, Empathy, Loving Engagement, and Di-

versity. These are values the educators at GCS hold central to their pedagogical practice. Through year-round staff meetings focused on diversity and equity, teachers and staff seek to expand their understanding of these principles and incorporate them into

everyday learning objectives. Here are a few ways the principles are showing up in school.

In all classrooms, there are always opportunities for resolving conflict. Teachers talk about what **restorative justice** looks like in a moment where a child might feel hurt, sad, or offended. For example, in early childhood classrooms a block tower could get knocked down. Educators know it is important for children to be able to make choices that build each other up, so they model and teach to not just say sorry, but to help the other child rebuild the tower. It is the adult's job to help children make better choices and give them opportunities to do so. These lessons also benefit those involved in such incidents and all who observe and engage within our classrooms.

In the youngest grades, teachers spend a great deal of time helping students develop **empathy**, or the ability to understand the feelings and emotions of another. At the basis of empathy



Books that celebrate diversity and equity.

Continued on next page

Youth Service Looks for Guilford Teams for Fundraiser

BY NANCY LEITCH

Teams from Guilford are sought now for Youth Services' newest fundraiser,

"Cornstock: Cornhole for a Cause!" which will take place on Saturday, May 21, from

noon-6 pm at the Retreat Farm in Brattleboro, at Farmhouse Square on Rt. 30. This event is presented by Chroma Technology.

According to organizers, there will be something for everyone at this event: cornhole matches for groups of 4+ people every hour on the hour,

food trucks, the Thirsty Goat Pub, the Creemie Stand and live music.

The goal is to raise \$20,000 to support Youth Services' 20 vital programs in Windham County.

The \$25 early registration fee per player is waived for those willing to find sponsors through peer-to-peer fundraising, and incentive prizes are offered at all levels of fundraising. The registration fee doubles to \$50 per person on the day of the event, if lanes are still available. Spectators are welcome at a suggested \$5 donation at the gate.

For more information or to register a team of four or more, visit youthservicesinc.org/cornstock/, email info@youthservicesinc.org or call (802) 257-0361 x131.



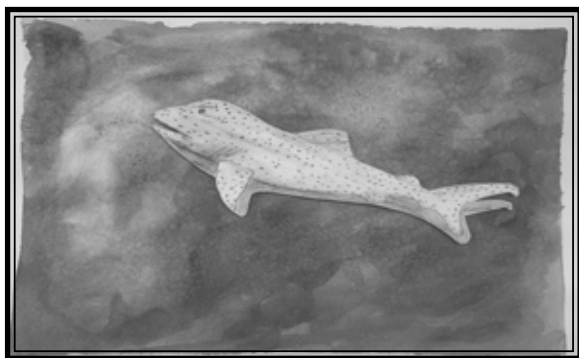
Diversity, continued

is *emotion recognition*. In pre-k and kindergarten, students read books, play games, and learn specific strategies for solving social problems, focusing largely on attention to others' feelings. This important work provides the foundation for the further development of empathy, a trait that we can all agree helps children become thoughtful and caring humans.

Loving engagement is taught and practiced in many organic ways across grade levels and throughout each school day. All classes start with a morning meeting, where students connect with each other through greetings, sharing something about themselves. Students are taught to treat those around them with fairness and respect in all classes throughout their time at GCS.

Throughout the grade levels, teachers explore **diversity** with read alouds, activities, and discussions, including through lesson materials that showcase diverse backgrounds and experiences. Students are encouraged to recognize and honor differences in others, as well as celebrate their own unique identities. At GCS, educators strive to instill curiosity and respect for people of all backgrounds, races and ethnicities, gender identities, and abilities in their students.

The importance for educators to have shared and commonly understood values cannot be understated, as values form the foundation for actions. The teachers have been grateful to focus efforts on these values that align with the Black Lives Matters movement, and are committed to learning, driving, and reinforcing diversity and equity across the board. GCS continues to work through these principles year-round, connecting them to the work they do on a daily basis as a foundational part of learning.



GCS art work

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Community Calendar

Library Camp Schedule for 2022:

July 11-15 Soccer Camp	Peter Welch & team	grades 5-8
July 25-29 Stream Story	Maia Gilmour	grades 2-5
August 1-12 Stage & Stream	Maia Gilmour	grades 5-8
August 15-19 Nature Stories	Emma Hollowell	grades K-3

Thursday, May 24, 2022 RECONSIDERATION / REVOTE of construction improvements to the Guilford Free Library. Vote at Town Office between 10 AM and 7PM

ONGOING:

Every Tuesday

- 11 AM STORYTIME IN PERSON OR BY ZOOM

Resuming in March: Library-Cathi Wilken & Laura Lawson Tucker present a program of songs, fingerplays, books and activities for babies, toddlers and older siblings (free) Info: 802-257-4603 Email staff@guilfordfreelibraryvt.org to request the zoom link.

Every second Tuesday of the month

- 9 AM GAZETTE MEETING Via Zoom or at the Guilford Country Store. Help plan the next issue.

3rd Wednesday of the month.

- 6:30 PM TALK ABOUT BOOKS
Library. Books are available to borrow from the library. (free).

Every Thursday

- 3-4 PM GUILFORD CARES FOOD PANTRY at Guilford Fairgrounds. Info: call Pat Haine 802-257-0626

A Form of Light

BY NICHAE CRAMER

I begin with live, hoping to end there.—Jericho Brown

We stand in the light that comes with the rise of the day
Under a dawn whose own end begins an evening.

Each dawning, each evening, each beginning, each ending,
Each passage of light held in the form of the day.

We have seen their passing that holds together these days
That form the swiftly gathering light of a year.

We know the full, gathered time of all of those swift years
That form the binding of light into each joined life.

We have seen bound with that life a path that passes through
A shadowed valley that we each shall walk alone.

It is the casting of that shadow that will tell us
Of the light that must shine beyond that valley's rim

And having walked then to the high rim of that valley
We stand in the light that comes with the rise of day.

-- For Margaret Dale and Tony Barrand

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ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the Gazette provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the Gazette Box at the library or the school, or mail it to The Guilford Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301.

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*Freya Beebe helps keep the fire going
at the Evans sugarcane house*

